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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes Los Angeles City College (LACC) records for a six-semester period of students who took the Guidance Examination in fall 1970 and scored in the lowest quintile on both the vocabulary and reading sections of the examination. This score indicated that their reading level was at the eighth-grade level or lower. The students were sent postcards recommending that they enroll in Developmental Communications on the basis of their examination score. Persistence rates and academic statistics indicated that many of these students were assisted by the "remedial" programs and were successful in college. Five tables and two figures provide the study data. (DB)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"SIX SEMESTER PERSISTENCE STUDY OF STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES, FALL 1970"

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Research Study #74-5

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Research Office
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"SIX SEMESTER PERSISTENCE STUDY OF STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES, FALL 1970"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In 1970, after a year of study by a college wide task force, Los Angeles City College instituted a new Guidance Examination for entering students. The new examination consisted of the Vocabulary and Reading Sections of the Cooperative Tests of English Expression, Form 1A and a locally constructed Numerical test. One of the uses of the examination was to recommend placement in Developmental Communications for those students who scored in the lowest quintile (LACC norms) on both the Vocabulary and Reading sections. In raw score terms, these students answered correctly 18 or less of 60 questions in each of the two sections. Estimates indicate that their reading level is at eighth grade or below.

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the academic performance and persistence of these students and thereby assess the efficacy of the placement procedure.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

The computer printout of results of the Fall, 1970 Guidance Examination was scanned to identify "55" (five-five) students, i.e., those scoring in the lowest quintile on both the Vocabulary and Reading sections of the Guidance Examination.

Procedure of the Study (continued)

A 5" x 8" index card was prepared for each "55" student. In addition to descriptive data about the student, academic information for the period Fall, 1970 through Spring, 1973 was summarized on the card. Also, copies of transcripts were prepared for more detailed analysis.

Data were tallied and analyzed as indicated in the next section.

FINDINGS

Perusal of the Fall, 1970 listings of students taking the Guidance Examination produced 533 "55" students, about 11% of those taking the Fall, 1970 examination. Of these 533 students, 115 did not complete registration, while 17 were not first-time students, leaving 401 students included in the study. Examination of transcripts indicated that 89 students completed no work at LACC during the three year period, or, equivalently, 312 students completed some work at LACC over the three year period.

Table 1 indicates sex and high school background of the "55" students and presents comparable figures for all students taking the Fall, 1970 Guidance Examination.

Table 2 indicates persistence rates over the six semester period and also presents for comparison similar statistics for a random sample of 397 day students who entered in Fall, 1967 (from Research Studies #70-9 and 71-11). Also indicated in Table 2 are numbers of students who obtained the AA degree during the six semester period. Figures 1 and 2 present some of the data of Table 2 in graphical form.

FINDINGS (continued)

Table 3 presents some scholarship statistics for "55" students who completed some work (N=312), according to number of semesters completed.

Table 4 indicates numbers of students completing "remedial" courses in Developmental Communications and/or English, while Table 5 indicates grade point averages earned in these and other selected courses.

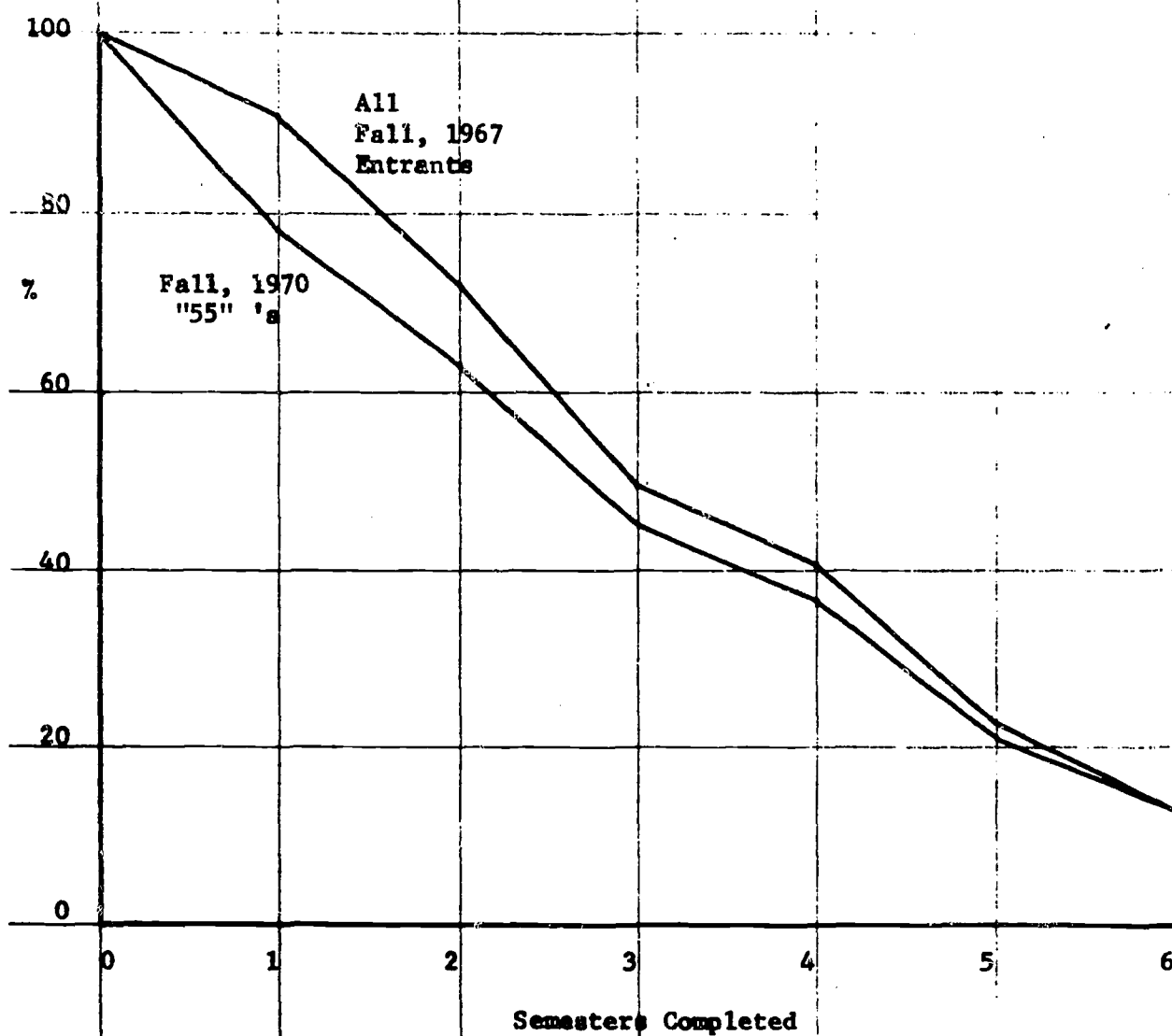
TABLE 1 - Distributions by Sex and Last High School Attended of "55" Students and Total Taking Guidance Examination, Fall, 1970

High School	Total No. Taking Guidance Exam.		No. of "55" Students		Percent of Total Who are "55"	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Belmont	154	137	13	7	8.4	5.1
2. Los Angeles	132	155	10	29	7.6	18.7
3. Fairfax	118	114	5	6	4.2	5.3
4. Marshall	108	107	4	5	3.7	4.7
5. Hollywood	80	97	6	5	7.5	5.2
6. Manual Arts	69	102	16	31	23.2	30.4
7. Dorsey	70	88	9	14	12.9	15.9
8. Fremont	64	77	23	24	35.9	31.2
9. Washington	47	76	11	15	23.4	19.7
10. Crenshaw	50	67	11	10	22.0	14.9
11. Hamilton	46	64	4	6	8.7	9.4
12. Jefferson	44	50	7	18	15.9	36.0
13. Locke	42	39	9	11	21.4	28.2
14. Franklin	37	39	1	1	2.7	2.6
15. Eagle Rock	39	22	2	0	5.1	0.0
16. Jordan	20	36	10	7	50.0	19.4
17. Lincoln	29	24	2	1	6.9	4.2
18. Roosevelt	21	15	0	1	0.0	6.7
19. Wilson	12	21	3	0	25.0	0.0
20. University	16	16	0	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL LA City	1445	1536	171	214	11.8	13.9
Other California Schls.	330	428	9	17	2.7	4.0
Other Western States	48	43	4	3	8.3	7.0
West Central States	17	17	0	0	0.0	0.0
Central States	108	74	8	4	7.4	5.4
South Central States	60	30	6	3	10.0	10.0
Southern States	196	110	30	18	15.3	16.4
North Eastern States	145	82	4	3	2.8	3.7
Foreign	118	104	16	23	13.6	22.1
TOTAL	2467	2424	248	285	10.0	11.8
		4891		533		10.9

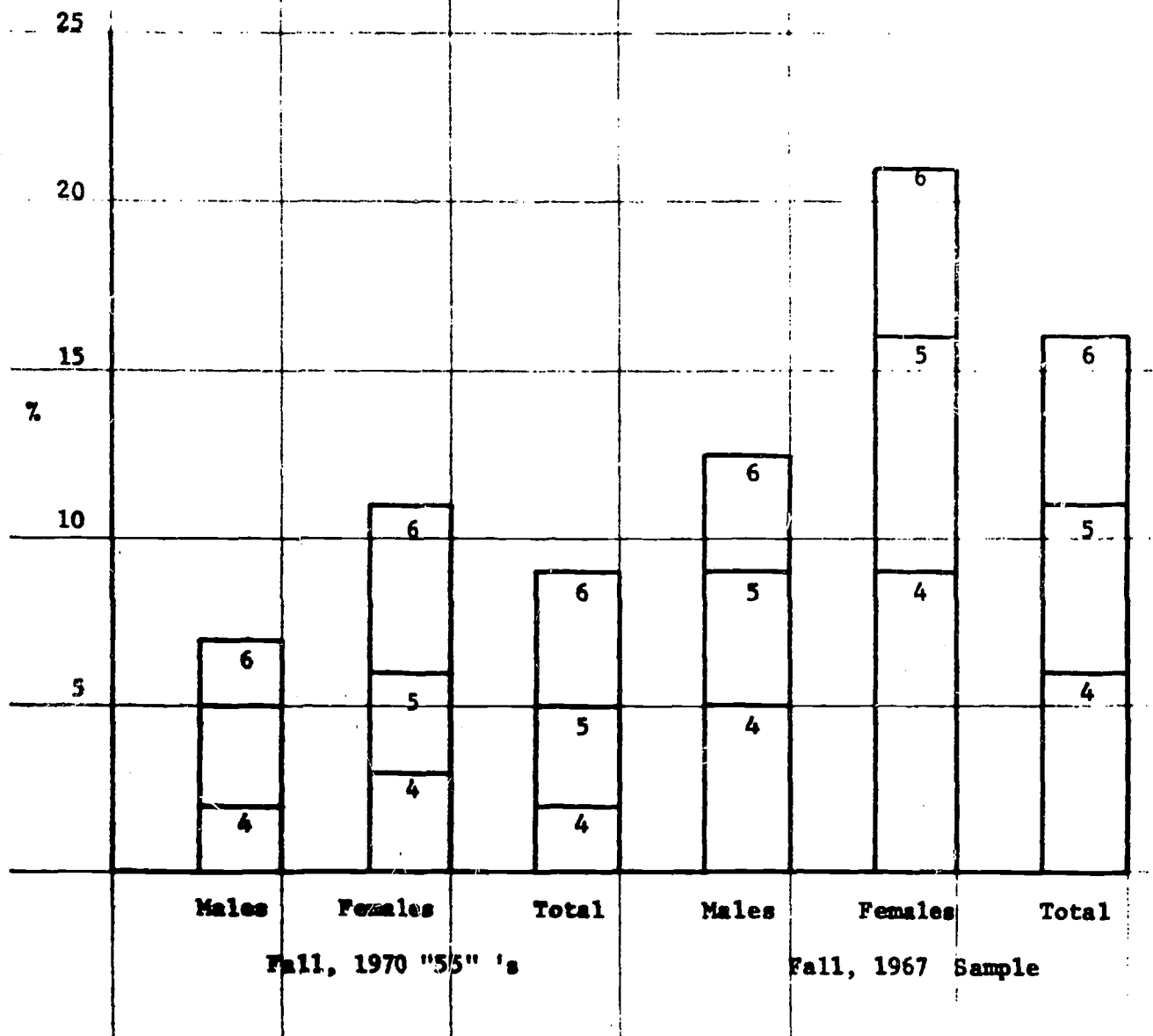
**TABLE 2 - Persistence Comparisons Between Fall, 1970 "55" Entrants
and Sample of All Fall, 1967 Entrants
(Percents in parentheses)**

		S E M E S T E R					
		No. Registered	1	2	3	4	5 6
No. Completing Semester							
Fall, 1970 "55"'s	M	182 (100)	141 (78)	111 (61)	71 (39)	57 (31)	31 (17) 15 (8)
	F	219 (100)	171 (78)	142 (65)	108 (49)	89 (41)	52 (24) 36 (16)
	T	401 (100)	312 (78)	253 (63)	179 (45)	146 (36)	83 (21) 51 (13)
Fall, 1967 Sample	M	218 (100)	196 (90)	153 (70)	105 (48)	83 (38)	42 (19) 23 (11)
	F	179 (100)	165 (92)	131 (73)	91 (51)	78 (44)	48 (27) 27 (15)
	T	397 (100)	361 (91)	284 (72)	196 (49)	161 (41)	90 (23) 50 (13)
No. Rec. AA Degrees							Total Rec. AA Degrees
Fall, 1970 "55"'s	M	---	---	---	---	3 (2)	12 (7) 3 (2)
	F	219 (100)	---	---	---	6 (3)	25 (11) 13 (6)
	T	401 (100)	---	---	---	9 (2)	37 (9) 16 (4)
Fall, 1967 Sample	M	218 (100)	---	---	---	10 (5)	27 (12) 9 (4)
	F	179 (100)	---	---	---	16 (9)	37 (21) 9 (5)
	T	379 (100)	---	---	---	26 (6)	64 (16) 18 (5)

**FIGURE 1 - Persistence of Fall, 1970 "55" 's
and Sample of All Fall, 1967
Entrants**



**FIGURE 2 - Percents Receiving AA Degree in 4,5,6 Semesters:
Fall, 1970 "55" 's and Fall, 1967 Sample of All
Day Entrants**



**TABLE 3 - Scholarship Record of Fall, 1970 "55" Entrants,
According to Number of Semesters Completed**

	No. Sems. Compl.	No. of Students	Av. Units Att.	Av. Units Compl.	UC ÷ UA	% GPA
Males	1	30	7.4	6.0	81	1.75
	2	40	16.4	13.0	79	1.61
	3	14	24.5	20.3	82	1.62
	4	26	39.2	36.4	93	2.08
	5	16	51.7	50.0	97	2.21
	6	15	60.1	57.3	95	2.11
<hr/>						
TOTAL		141	28.1	25.4	90	1.98
Females	1	29	7.4	5.3	72	1.71
	2	34	15.7	14.2	90	1.83
	3	19	23.0	21.1	92	1.68
	4	37	38.0	34.9	92	2.01
	5	16	54.8	51.3	94	1.98
	6	36	60.5	59.0	98	2.29
<hr/>						
TOTAL		171	33.0	30.8	93	2.06
All	1	59	7.4	5.7	76	1.73
	2	74	16.1	13.6	84	1.71
	3	33	23.6	20.7	88	1.65
	4	63	38.5	35.5	92	2.04
	5	32	53.2	50.6	95	2.09
	6	51	60.4	58.5	97	2.24
<hr/>						
TOTAL		312	30.8	28.4	92	2.03
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Fall, 1967 Sample (6 semester totals)						
Males		196	33.6	N/A	N/A	2.04
Females		165	33.5	N/A	N/A	2.21
TOTAL		361	33.5	N/A	N/A	2.12

**TABLE 4 - Numbers of Fall, 1970 "55" Entrants Who Completed
(D or Better) "Remedial" Courses**

No. of Semesters Completed	No. of Students	(A) Dev. Comm. Only		(B) English Only		(C) Both Dev. Comm. & English		Total (A+B+C)	
		No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	%
1	M	30		7	(23)	0	(0)	16	(53)
	F	29		1	(4)	0	(0)	13	(45)
	T	59		8	(14)	0	(0)	29	(49)
2	M	40		7	(18)	2	(5)	25	(62)
	F	34		8	(24)	1	(3)	21	(62)
	T	74		15	(20)	3	(4)	46	(62)
3	M	14		1	(7)	3	(21)	9	(64)
	F	19		2	(10)	0	(0)	16	(84)
	T	33		3	(9)	3	(9)	25	(76)
4	M	36		7	(27)	3	(12)	21	(81)
	F	27		9	(24)	10	(27)	28	(76)
	T	63		16	(25)	13	(21)	49	(78)
5	M	16		5	(31)	5	(31)	13	(81)
	F	16		9	(56)	4	(25)	16	(100)
	T	32		14	(44)	9	(28)	29	(91)
6	M	15		4	(27)	6	(40)	14	(93)
	F	36		8	(22)	9	(25)	33	(92)
	T	51		12	(24)	15	(29)	47	(92)
ALL	M	141		31	(22)	19	(14)	98	(70)
	F	171		37	(22)	24	(14)	127	(74)
	T	312		68	(22)	43	(14)	225	(72)
Graduates Only	M	12		5	(42)	5	(42)	12	(100)
	F	25		5	(21)	7	(28)	20	(83)
	T	37		10	(27)	12	(32)	32	(89)

* "Remedial" English includes 21, 40, 61-66

**TABLE 5 - Performance in Selected Courses by Fall,
1970 "55" Students**

	All "55" 's			"55" Graduates			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Developmental Communications	No.* GPA	70 2.16	92 2.40	162 2.29	7 3.01	15 3.10	22 3.07
Remedial English (21,40,61-66)	No* GPA	177 1.93	204 1.82	381 1.87	33 2.64	51 2.06	84 2.29
Psychology 20, 21	No.* GPA	20 2.00	28 2.36	48 2.31	2 2.00	5 2.60	7 2.42
Mathematics 30	No.* GPA	27 2.00	34 2.06	61 2.03	4 2.50	5 2.20	9 2.33
English 1	No. ** GPA	14 2.21	29 1.79	43 1.93	5 2.20	12 2.08	17 2.12
English 44 or Speech 9 (Foreign)	No. **	15	43	58	2	9	11

* numbers of courses
** numbers of students

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study analyzes LACC records, for a six semester period, of students who took the Guidance Examination in Fall, 1970 and scored in the lowest quintile on both the Vocabulary and Reading sections of the examination, indicating that their reading level was at the eighth grade or lower. These students receive postcards recommending, on the basis of their examination score, that they enroll in Developmental Communications.

Following are some observations on the findings of the study:

- (1) 533 (about 11%) of those taking the Fall, 1970 Guidance Examination qualified for this "55" status. Slightly more females than males (12% to 10%) qualified. With regard to high school source, largest percentages were from the inner city schools and the Southern states, indicating that a large number of these students are Black.
- (2) Over three-fourths of the students completed some work at LACC, with nearly two-thirds completing a full year, almost a half completing three semesters, and a third completing four semesters. These persistence rates are below those of a random sample of all Fall, 1967 day entrants (78%-91%, 63%-72%, 45%-49%, 36%-41%), but they indicate that a large percentage of the "55" students are able to pursue college work successfully. As with the 1967 sample, females persist at a higher rate than males. 9% of the students had received an AA degree by the end of the three year period, compared with 16% of the 1967 group.
- (3) "55" students over the six semester period attempted an average of 31 units and completed 92% of the units attempted, a figure only slightly below that (33.5 UA) of the 1967 sample. Overall grade point average was also just slightly below that of the 1967 sample (2.03-2.12).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (continued)

- (4) Number of semesters completed correlates highly with number of remedial courses taken. For students who completed one through six semesters respectively, the percents of the groups completing at least one remedial course were 49%, 62%, 76%, 78%, 91%, and 92%. 89% of those receiving the AA degree completed at least one remedial course, with 59% completing a course in Developmental Studies.
- (5) About one in seven of the "55" students who completed at least one semester completed English 1 sometime during the six semester period. About half of the graduates completed English 1. About 18% of the "55" entrants enrolled in one or both of the communications courses (Speech 9 or English 44) for foreign students. 19% of the graduates were foreign.

This study has not attempted to investigate the effects of specific remedial activities (e.g., various Developmental Communications approaches, tutoring, financial aids), but has simply followed over a three year period those students who entered LACC in Fall, 1970 with a reading level at eighth grade or below, and thus whose expected probability of academic success is low. Persistence rates and scholarship statistics presented above indicate that many of these students are indeed assisted by the "remedial" programs and are able to attain success in the college.

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